



University of Massachusetts Amherst
Environmental Health & Safety
DRAPER HALL
Amherst, MA 01003
413.545-2682 FAX 413.545.2600

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Laboratory Safety Coordinators

From: Maureen O'Leary, Laboratory Safety Coordinator Chair, Biosafety & Environmental Health Program Head

Subject: Minutes from November 16, 2005 Lab Safety Coordinator Committee Meeting

Date: November 17, 2005

Eye Protection Signs for Labs

Donald Robinson, Director EH&S

- EH&S is placing eye protection required signs on all laboratory doors. The eye protection requirement is a University policy and a copy of the policy can be found in the Lab Safety Manual.
- Dr. Holden's lab in Microbiology recently had a laboratory accident in which glassware exploded and pieces of the glass ended up in a student's eye. The student had safety glasses but was not wearing them at the time of the accident. Dr. Holden in response to this incident requested that all students working in his lab sign a document that outlines the requirements for protective equipment and safety procedures in the lab. (Please see the attached document)
- Don Robinson is willing to set-up meetings with Departments to explain the importance of the eye protection policy and the lab signage requirement at the University.

Preparing for an EPA/DEP Compliance Inspection

Donald Robinson, Director EH&S

- In the past, multimedia inspections conducted by the EPA/DEP have found problems and issued fines at the University for Satellite Waste Accumulation Areas in labs. The fines were mainly issued for lack of capping waste containers and not conducting the required weekly inspections of these areas.
- The EPA is starting to conduct reinspections from 2000 at several institutions in the Northeast including MIT so be prepared for a visit.

The Lab Assessment Program

Brian Fitzpatrick, Environmental Management Program Head & Jim Field, Hazardous Materials Control Manager

- EH&S has been conducting lab assessments and have been consistently identifying several common problem areas in laboratories;
- **The Lab Information Cards** on doors need to be current and accurate with personnel and contact information
- **General Housekeeping** needs to be better. EH&S is finding that many labs have excessive storage problems especially in common areas, hallways, etc. also sinks full of dirty glassware. Lack of labeling of stock solutions, excessive amounts of chemicals, and old/expired chemicals are also common problems. Neat and orderly appearances are important in an EPA inspection. Typically if a lab appears messy they will investigate looking for problems, if not they move to the next lab.
- **Satellite Accumulation Areas** for waste needs to be inspected weekly by laboratory personnel. There needs to be secondary containment of the waste and waste containers need to be capped.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** is not worn by laboratory personnel.

ChEMS Program Update

Alfred Sorensen, Chemical & Industrial Hygiene Program Head

- The ChEMS program for ordering, inventory and delivery of chemicals on campus will begin next semester. The temporary trailer for the program has been setup next to the Conte Polymer Science building.
- At the next Lab Safety Coordinator Meeting in December John Martin from procurement will present the new chemical ordering process for the ChEMS program.